

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143164

16

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 IGA-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 /165 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:EWGNEHM:AM

7/20/73 X21022

APPROVED BY NEA:JJSISCO

FFP:MISS BITTERMAN (SUBS)

USDA:AMEAD

ASIA/DP:ASHAKOW

ASIA:WHITE

NEA:AHMEYER

----- 018468

R 202059Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 143164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S URGENT REQUEST FOR PL-480 WHEAT
FLOUR

REF: COLOMBO 1789

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO AND WHITE

1. AS YOU WILL SEE IN SEPTEL, CHARGE DE ALWIS HAS BEEN
IN TO PRESENT PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S LETTER TO THE
PRESIDENT ON WHEAT FLOUR. WE WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE
ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE PL-480 PROGRAM TO SRI
LANKA AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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PAGE 02 STATE 143164

WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO TRY TO GET FAVORABLE

ACTION ON SRI LANKA'S REQUEST.

2. AID, OF COURSE, MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO DE ALWIS AS REPORTED BY GUNASEKERA. MEETING HELD TO PERMIT DE ALWIS GIVE AID CHART SHOWING SRI LANKA'S FLOUR NEEDS. CHART, PREPARED BY DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL RELATIONS, SHOWED 35,000 TONS DRAW-OFF EACH MONTH. WHEN DE ALWIS INDICATED THIS WAS AMOUNT NEEDED BY GSL, AID REPLIED THAT FIGURES SEEMED SOUND. AID SAID WE WERE SYMPATHETIC TO EARLY SHIPMENTS AND WOULD MAKE ATTEMPT GET SOMETHING MOVING BY MID-OCTOBER. AID MADE CLEAR THERE WAS NO WAY FOR REAL COMMITMENT BEFORE SEPTEMBER, IF THEN, GIVEN WELL PUBLICIZED DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH US WHEAT SUPPLY SITUATION.

3. WHOLE PL-480 SITUATION CONTINUES UNCLEAR. AT THIS POINT WE CANNOT SEE HOW WE WILL BE IN POSITION TO GIVE YOU ASSURANCES YOU ASKED FOR TO PASS TO THE PM BEFORE SHE DEPARTS FOR OTTAWA ON JULY 28. WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR. RUSH

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Disposition Authority: worrelsw
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: EWGNEHM:AM
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30 JUN 2005

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